

Message Text

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF SEPT 25, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING, CHAIRED BY FRG REP (BEHREND), THE AD HOC GROUP (AHG) DISCUSSED THE SEPTEMBER 24 PLENARY, AGREEING THAT THE SPEECH BY CZECH REP (KLEIN) DID NOT CONTAIN NEW ELEMENTS AND SHOULD BE VIEWED BASICALLY AS A HOLDING ACTION. THE AHG ALSO HEARD REPORTS ON A FEW BRIEF BILATERALS, AND APPROVED DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR THIS ROUND'S INITIAL INFORMAL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1. US REP BRIEFED THE GROUP ON THE JOHN FINNEY ARTICLE CONCERNING US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE ON LINES OF STATE

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210763. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30. END SUMMARY.

BILATERALS

2. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAK REP (KLEIN) HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO PRAGUE IN ONE OR TWO MONTHS TO ASSUME A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY POST INVOLVING DISARMAMENT MATTERS. GRANDE SAID KLEIN APPEARED PLEASED TO BE LEAVING. UK DEP REP (GOODALL) REPORTED THAT SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO HIS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE EAST HAD ANY NEW PROPOSALS TO MAKE THIS SESSION. COMMENT: SHUSTOV TOLD US DELOFF THAT HE HAD WORKED MOST OF THE SUMMER IN HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT, WHICH HE SAID DEALS WITH SALT, CCD AND UN ISSUES AS WELL AS MBFR, BUT THAT HE HAD SPENT RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME ON MBFR. END COMMENT.

PLENARY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24

3. THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE SEPTEMBER 24 PLENARY AND AGREED WITH UK REP ROSE'S COMMENT THAT THE SPEECH BY KLEIN CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. FRG REP (BEHREND) COMMENTED THAT THE EAST'S PRESENTATION WAS RATHER SHORT AND COLORLESS BUT DID MAKE THE POINT THAT ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. US REP NOTED THAT PARAGRAPH 5 OF KLEIN'S SPEECH (TEXT MBFR VIENNA 0258) CONTAINED A GENERAL AND NEGATIVE EASTERN REACTION TO WESTERN PROPOSALS ON WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. HOWEVER, THE WEST'S LINKAGE PROPOSALS WERE NEITHER REFERRED TO SPECIFICALLY NOR REJECTED. THE EASTERN EMPHASIS WAS RATHER ON FAIRNESS AND EQUITY AND KLEIN HAD INDICATED THAT THE EAST CONSIDERED THE BALL TO BE IN THE WESTERN COURT. ROSE, GRANDE AND ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) ENDORSED US REP'S VIEW OF THE KLEIN STATEMENT AS ESSENTIALLY A HOLDING-ACTION. ROSE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE SPEECH PROBABLY HAD BEEN DRAFTED HURRIEDLY AFTER KLEIN'S SEPTEMBER 23 RETURN TO VIENNA AND THAT ONE, THEREFORE, SHOULD NOT

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TRY TO READ ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT INTO THE TERMINOLOGY OR PHRASEOLOGY OF THE SPEECH. BEHREND SAID THAT GDR REP (OESER) HAD INDICATED FAMILIARITY WITH THE SPEECH BEFORE IT WAS DELIVERED. US REP NOTED THAT KLEIN HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TWO WEEKS IN MOSCOW, SO THE TEXT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO HIM THERE. COMMENT: OESER TOLD US DELOFF THAT HE HAD ALSO PASSED PART OF THE SUMMER ON A VACATION IN THE USSR. END COMMENT.

TALKING POINTS FOR FIRST INFORMAL

4. THE GROUP HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR THIS ROUND'S FIRST INFORMAL MEETING, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1. US DEP REP POINTED OUT THAT THE TALKING POINTS FOLLOW THE ORTHODOX ALLIED LINE AND PICK UP WHERE THE INFORMALS LEFT OFF LAST JULY ON THE SUBJECT OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. HE NOTED THAT THE US DEL WOULD BE PRESENTING FURTHER CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS FOR AHG CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1 INFORMAL. AFTER SOME MINOR EDITORIAL REVISIONS, THE GROUP APPROVED THE DRAFT TALKING POINTS.

NY TIMES ARTICLE ON US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE

5. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN STATE 210763, US REP EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND OF THE RECENT JOHN FINNEY NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) ASKED IF THE USG WOULD DELAY DECISIONS ON OPTION III UNTIL THE REVIEW OF NUCLEAR STRATEGY REQUIRED BY PUBLIC LAW 93-365 IS COMPLETED. US REP RELIED IN THE NEGATIVE, SAYING THE TWO WERE SEPARATE ISSUES. QUARLES FURTHER ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD WITHDRAW SUCH NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF MBFR SHOULD THE DEFENSE DEPT STUDY CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS A SURPLUS OF SUCH WEAPONS, WITH THE EFFECT OF UNDERMINING THE BARGAINING VALUE OF OPTION III. US REP REPLIED THAT ICATIONS AND WILL BEAR THEM CAREFULLY IN MIND. ROSE ASKED IF THE DEFENSE DEPT STUDY, WHICH WILL BE PREPARED FOR CONGRESS, WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

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US REP RESPONDED THAT SUCH DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET, THAT THE STUDY WOULD BE CLASSIFIED, BUT THAT CONGRESS LATER MIGHT CONSIDER MAKING PUBLIC THOSE PORTIONS WHICH WERE NOT CONSIDERED SENSITIVE FROM THE SECURITY STANDPOINT. US REP ADDED THAT THE THEN CURRENT STATUS OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE A FACTOR IN ANY DECISION TO DECLASSIFY.

VISIT BY CHAIRMAN OF NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE

6. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) REPORTED THAT ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, WILL VISIT VIENNA BUT IN A CIVILIAN CAPACITY. THE ADMIRAL DOES NOT WANT ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE

ON HIS BEHALF. UK REP SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH
HILL-NORTON ON THE DETAILS.

NEXT PLENARY AND AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS

7. ADRIAENSSEN REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH POLISH REP (STRULAK), WHO TOLD HIM THAT THE
EASTERN SIDE HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED TO HOLD THE
NEXT PLENARY MEETING ON OCTOBER 3. NEXT AHG
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30. RESOR

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